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Remarks

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claim 61 is considered to recite allowable subject matter.

Claims 27, 36, 43 and 51 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. Claims 21-60 and 62 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) for anticipation by 5,574,849 to Sonnier et al.

Applicants hereby cancel claims 21-38, 43-58 and 61-62. Claims 39-42 and 59-60 are pending in the present application.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections.

Referring to independent claim 39, the method recites the limitations of previously pending claim 61. Claim 39 is believed to be allowable in view of the indication in the Office Action that claim 61 is allowable. Applicants respectfully request allowance of claim 39 in the next Action.

The claims which depend from independent claim 39 are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claim as well as for their own respective features which are neither shown nor suggested by the cited art.

By this response, Applicants have attempted to place the application in condition for allowance. In particular, Applicants have canceled all rejected claims and attempted to place claim 39 into allowable form. Applicants respectfully request allowance of the application in the next Action. The undersigned respectfully requests a telephone call at 509-624-4276 from the Office if the application is not considered to be in condition for allowance.


Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

The Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned if the Examiner believes such would facilitate prosecution of the present application. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time during normal business hours (Pacific Time Zone).

*Serial No. 10/688,487  
Case No. 10991599-3  
Amendment B*

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Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Rust et al.

By:   
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Reg. No. 39,833  
Date: 9/11/06

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